



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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VICE PRESIDENT NAZARIO R. FIGUEROA

Office of The Vice President

Statement of

THE HARTFORD POLICE UNION

To the

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Good morning Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. My name is Nazario J. Figueroa, a Police Officer in the Hartford Police Department with 15 years of policing experience. I am also the Vice President of the Hartford Police Union, the largest independent municipal police union in the state. On behalf of all the members of the Hartford Police Union, which is comprised of Patrolmen, Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains, we appreciate your dedication and time and thank you for allowing me to testify.

The Hartford Police Union opposes *House Bill #6110 (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING DOUBLED FINES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS IN MUNICIPAL CONSTRUCTION ZONES AND PROHIBITING MUNICIPALITIES FROM REQUIRING POLICE SUPERVISION OF CONSTRUCTION ZONES.*

As many of you are aware the members of my Union along with the members of every major municipal police department in the State performs the function that the bill is intending to prohibit. These prohibitions would be a tremendous financial impact on these police officers without access to the process of collective bargaining or violations of existing agreements, however it has far greater impact on the safety of the work crews, it purports to protect, the safety of the motoring and pedestrian public and the municipalities we serve.

This bill suggests that the contractors have a greater grasp of the safety and security issues than the local authority in determining the needs and standards of each municipality. Hartford Police Officers have the expertise required, especially in an urban setting to handle often dangerous situations that can arise at a local road excavation performed by utility companies and their contractors. Requirements for traffic control are only made after the careful review of construction permits to the local traffic control authority of each municipality, taking into consideration anticipated disruption and safety hazards to the public. Such requirements are not created in a vacuum and are not established for the interest of the contractors' liability or financial cost. This bill fails to recognize the municipalities' responsibility, which is, to ensure the safety concerns of the general public, the minimal disruption of the flow of traffic, and conformance with



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the issued permit. These conditions must be constantly maintained in the municipalities' interest.

By seeking to remove the municipalities' requirement of a uniformed police officer, the greatest preventative safety factor to the work crew and the public, one can only ask, what is the true intent of this bill?

The Hartford Police Union urges the committee not to support this bill and to carefully consider the impact of this bill would have on municipalities and their ability to provide public safety to its residents, businesses and visitors and respectfully ask you to hold your vote.

As an individual who has worked numerous construction permit sites with many a story to tell I welcome your questions and urge you to not consider passage of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue

PATROLMAN NAZARIO J. FIGUEROA
Hartford Police Union Vice President